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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CAPAA and ACLF Launch Fellowship Program, Accepting Applications**

OLYMPIA - The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) are pleased to announce the launch of a Fellowship opportunity for college juniors, seniors, and graduate students to build their legislative and public policy analysis skills on issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community. Applications are currently being accepted for the January 2010 Fellowship program. Individuals selected to participate in the program will gain valuable job experience and an inside look at the government while building leadership skills. Upon completing the Fellowship, the Fellow, if eligible, will participate in ACLF's Community Leaders Program, which further develops leadership skills through community based curriculum, project team-building and mentoring/networking opportunities.

"This program will cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow and I'm proud that the agency will be able to provide an opportunity allowing students to access the field of government," said Kendee Yamaguchi, Executive Director of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. "I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a stronger future for Asian Pacific Americans in our state."

In addition to normal office duties, the Fellow will supplement their learning experience by attending committee hearings during the legislative session and statewide community events. Fellows also have the opportunity to shadow an Asian Pacific American legislator.

"This unique, collaborative fellowship emphasizes public service learning through a combined government and grassroots community lens that will holistically enrich the Fellow's leadership capacity in the Asian Pacific Islander community," said Cherry Cayabyab, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation.

The 2010 Fellowship program begins in January, and application review begins December 1; priority given to applications received by December 15; after December 15<sup>th</sup>, applications are considered on a space-available basis. Fellows will be placed in the agency's Olympia office.

More information on the CAPAA ACLF Fellowship Program, including application instructions, can be found at [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov) and [www.aclfnorthwest.org](http://www.aclfnorthwest.org) or by contacting our offices at 360.725.5667 (CAPAA) or 206.625.3850 (ACLF).

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**CAPAA** was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State. Visit us at [www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov)

**ACLF** was organized in 1998 to identify, train, and mentor promising community leaders, ensuring that the Asian Pacific Islander community is influential in socio-political discourse and policy-making. ACLF promotes social, economic and political justice by training and supporting a strong, sustainable community of civically engaged leaders that reflects the diversity of local Asians & Pacific Islanders. Visit us at [www.aclfnorthwest.org](http://www.aclfnorthwest.org)